

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSC-01 SSO-00

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O 081100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6847

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 122

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (WILSON, CHARLES N.)

SUBJECT: CODEL WILSON

SUMMARY: AS ANTICIPATED BY BOTH CODEL AND EMBASSY, EPIPHANY WEEKEND LIMITED PERIOD DURING WHICH CONTACTS WITH GOG OFFICIALS POSSIBLE. NEVERTHELESS, CODEL HAD USEFUL VISIT HIGHLIGHTED BY MEETINGS SCHEDULED ON JANUARY 7 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS (CANCELLED BECAUSE OF HIS ILLNESS), DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF AND PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. ON JANUARY 6, CODEL HAD DINNER WITH MAVROS, PESMAZOGLOU AND OTHER PROMINENT MEMBERS OF CU/NF. IN ADDITION, CODEL RECEIVED COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING JANUARY 4 AND TOURED U.S. NAVY HOMEPORTING FACILITY JAN 6. END SUMMARY.

1. CODEL BEGAN PROGRAM EVENING OF JAN 4 WITH INFORMAL COUNTRY TEAM MEETING AT AMB'S RESIDENCE FOLLOWED BY BUFFET DINNER. DURING DISCUSSION, CODEL'S QUESTIONS TOUCHED PRINCIPALLY ON CYPRUS SITUATION, US-GREEK BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP AND GREEK ECONOMIC SITUATION.

2. ON JAN 5 CODEL OPTED AGAINST GROUP TOURS, PREFERRING INSTEAD TO VISIT TOURISTIC ATTRACTIONS IN SMALL GROUPS.

3. ON JAN 6, REP EDWARDS ACCOMPANIED BY SMITH AND SEYMOUR RECEIVED FSO BRIEFING AND TOUR OF FACILITIES CULMINATING IN HOUR LONG MEETING WITH COMMODORE OF DESRON TWELVE OF ELEFSIS. HE FINISHED WITH APPARENT POSITIVE  
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ATTITUDE TOWARD HOMEPORTING IN ATHENS AREA. REST OF CODEL

PROCEEDED SEPARATELY AND LATER DIRECTLY TO ELEFSIS HOME-PORTING SITE AND SPENT AN HOUR WITH COMMODORE OF DESRON TWELVE FOLLOWED BY INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSIONS WITH CREW MEMBERS OF USS SAMPSON AND TOUR OF SHIP. AGAIN, RESULT APPEARED TO BE GENERALLY GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF AND MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD HOMEPORTING IN PRACTICE, ALTHOUGH NEGATIVE COMMENTS CONTINUED TO BE MADE ABOUT POLITICAL WISDOM OF ITS INCEPTION UNDER AUTHORITARIAN REGIME.

4. ON EVENING OF JANUARY 6 CODEL HAD DINNER WITH CU/NF LEADER MAVROS AND OTHER LEADING MEMBERS OF THIS PARTY. EMBASSY WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT THIS AFFAIR. ACCORDING TO CODEL, MAVROS RECOUNTED IN SOME DETAIL EVENTS DURING HIS TENURE AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER IN CARAMANLIS-LED COALITION GOVERNMENT. MAVROS AND ASSOCIATES REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CYPRUS AS A NATIONAL ISSUE IN GREECE AND DID NOT STAKE OUT CU/NF POSITION DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF CARAMANLIS.

5. APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS JAN 7 HAD TO BE CANCELLED BECAUSE OF ILLNESS. HOWEVER, CODEL MET FOR ALMOST 1-1/2 HOURS WITH DEFMIN AVEROFF. CODEL OPTED AGAINST CONTROL OFFICER PRESENCE IN THIS AND FOLLOWING MEETING. AVEROFF PRESENTED GREEK VIEW OF CYPRUS SITUATION AND GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS IN HIS USUAL ARTICULATE AND PERSUASIVE MANNER. WHEN REP WILSON PRESSED AVEROFF WITH QUESTION OF WHAT HE WOULD HAVE DONE HAD HE BEEN IN ECEVIT'S PLACE FOLLOWING JUNTA-INSPIRED COUP ON CYPRUS, LATTER FINALLY ADMITTED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TAKEN SAME COURSE FOLLOWED BY ECEVIT. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN, AS HE HAS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, ABOUT CONCENTRATION IN IZMIR AND SEA OF MARMARA OF TURKISH AMPHIBIOUS LIFT CAPABILITY WHICH HE REGARDED AS VERY REAL THREAT TO GREEK ISLAND IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ANATOLIAN COAST. HE DESCRIBED AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AIRSPACE PROBLEMS TO SUBSTANTIATE TURKISH THREAT. AVEROFF STRESSED NEED TO STRENGTHEN GREEK ARMED FORCES WITH INFUSION OF MODERN EQUIPMENT. IN THIS MEETING, AS IN OTHERS, RESUMPTION OF GRANT AID FOR THIS PURPOSE WAS IMPLIED OR HINTED AT WITHOUT DIRECT ASSERTION THAT THIS LINKED TO OTHER ISSUES. CODEL APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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DID NOT PURSUE QUESTION OF GOG ATTITUDE TOWARD US SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY, AVEROFF VOLUNTEERED NO COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

6. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS RECEIVED CODEL FOR FORTY MINUTE MEETING LATER JAN 7. PM REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN CORDIAL BUT BLUNT IN DISCUSSING CYPRUS ISSUE AND US-GREEK RELATIONS. HE MAINTAINED THAT USG COULD HAVE PREVENTED

TURKISH INCURSION INTO CYPRUS, REFERRING TO JOHNSON LETTER OF 1964 AS PRECEDENT.. WHEN CODEL ASKED WHETHER GOG WOULD HAVE EXPECTED USE OF US ARMED FORCES TO DETER TURKISH ACTION, PM REPLIED THAT CHOICE OF MEANS WAS UP TO USG. CODEL MEMBERS THEREUPON POINTED OUT THAT VIET-NAM EXPERIENCE HAD MADE SUCH ACTION BY USG IMPOSSIBLE. PM WAS NOT PERSUADED AND WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT BRITISH HAD HAD BOTH STRATEGIC POSITION AND MILITARY FORCES TO HAVE REPULSED TURKISH OPERATION AND CRITICIZED THEM FOR NOT HAVING DONE SO. PM ALSO STATED THAT IF TURKEY CONTINUED TO REJECT COMPROMISE, WAR COULD NOT BE PRECLUDED. AS IN MEETING WITH AVEROFF, SUBJECT OF GOG ATTITUDE TOWARD USG SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY APPARENTLY DID NOT ARISE.

7. CONGRESSMAN AND MRS. SARBANES, JOINED BY CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS ARE REMAINING IN ATHENS UNTIL THE WEEKEND AND EMBASSY WILL REPORT SEPARATELY ON THEIR ACTIVITIES AFTER DEPARTURE.

8. PRESS COMMENT ON CODEL WILSON BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL. STEARNS

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